

# EUROPE'S NEW DREAMER-POET KING

## Who Was Once Snowballed by His Angry Subjects

Picturesque Career  
of Monarch Who  
Was Once Exiled  
by Father  
to Cure  
Him of  
Desires  
to Idle.

**A** DREAMER of day dreams, a poet, musician, and yet a King! The world waits today upon Gustavus V, newly crowned King of Sweden, to demonstrate that a ruler may possess these qualities and be a ruler still.

A unique figure in one sense of the word is the man who has just ascended the throne of Sweden, for there are events in his career as crown prince that have been unparalleled in the annals of royal history.

He is the only monarch ever "snow-balled" by indignant subjects as a token of their disapproval of one of his policies. He has enjoyed this unenviable distinction for the last seven years, the snow-balling incident taking place about the time the controversy between Sweden and Norway, which later resulted in their dissolution, began to assume shape. Gustavus was never popular with his Norway subjects, anyway, and his policy as regent was resented in this manner.

He is furthermore the only monarch who was banished to the wilds of his own country by a king yet unrelenting father in order that he in rural exile might eradicate his youthful tendencies to dream—to be a builder of castles in Spain rather than a doer of deeds.

### Rise Only Partly Successful.

The rise of the late King Oscar was only partly successful, for the fact remains that Sweden's ruler today is a dreamer still. For being a poet and a musician no one can blame him for his father was one before him.

These are but a few of the reasons why the eyes of the world have turned toward Stockholm during the last few weeks, following the death of Oscar and the changes in rank of members of the royal family. Much has been said and may still be said and yet the story remains untold of how and why Sweden's kingdom and her rulers grip the public attention.

In beginning a study of the life, character habits and history of the new King, as well as the present crown prince, it is perhaps not stretching the truth to say that the royal family of Sweden will be found the most interesting of all those who pass in daily review in the public prints before the people of the world.

First one should take into consideration the fact that the present King is but five generations removed from peasantry, the great-grandfather of his majesty having been none other than the celebrated Bernadotte, peasant field marshal for Napoleon.

It was Napoleon who placed Bernadotte upon the throne of Sweden and Norway and in passing it is well to merely note that it was Bernadotte who afterwards helped to end Napoleon's triumphant reign as dictator absolute of Europe.

### House But 150 Years Old.

Therefore, the house from which sprang the King of today is but

150 years old, and the monarchy is as yet in its swaddling clothes compared to others with whom the royal family of Sweden has become affiliated through marriage. Gustavus himself is forty-four years old; the Crown Prince but twenty-five.

In some respects Gustav V, the new ruler, is not unlike America's own Executive. He is passionately fond of lawn tennis, among other things, and it is said that under no consideration will he forego his daily match in the royal courtyard. His royal highness is not only the president of the club at Idrottsparken, but he is the ruling spirit. Since Gustavus has ascended the throne, however, it is said that the etiquette of the court will not permit him to compete at public tournaments, as he has been known to do while Crown Prince, and bear off prizes. He may still engage in practice games with members of the court, and it is predicted that the "tennis cabinet" of Sweden may in time become as noted as that of this country.

It has been said that as Crown Prince the present King never showed any traits either of the soldier or statesman. In fact, he has had but little opportunity. Her apparent to the throne, he has realized that his every act and word would be commented upon, and he has developed into a stern, quiet man, with but few intimates, and no favorites.

### Lacking in Popularity.

He has been described as a tall, slender figure, crowned with a well-shaped head, having a full black beard; serious, earnest eyes, extremely near sighted, a remarkably ungracious manner, almost boorish, and yet appearing to make every effort to be gracious; a voice not particularly pleasing to the ear; a sternness not inviting friendship—without having the making of a good ruler, but lacking certain of the democratic qualities that made his father a favorite with every class.

Gustavus was educated in the public schools patronized by the wealthy class of his countrymen. It was the wish of King Oscar that the heir to the throne should be shown no consideration not given other pupils, and that he should share the hard discipline of the ordinary boy. Even in this democratic beginning, however, Gustavus was never exceedingly popular. He was always shy and retiring. As he grew up he was given to dreams and to poetry. To curb these poetical inclinations, the crown prince was, as before stated, sent in youth to the country, where he was, figuratively speaking, allowed to run wild. It was then that he acquired a taste for the course which has followed him through all his life, and he is today an enthusiastic nimrod.

### Admires Emperor William.

It is understood that Gustavus has always regarded Emperor William as the ideal monarch, and has patterned somewhat after that ruler. It has been said, however, that he does not possess the same militant spirit of the German Em-

GUSTAVE V,  
New King of Sweden, Who Has Just  
Succeeded to the Throne.

### ROYAL RESIDENCE AT STOCKHOLM.

peror, and, in fact, put off entering the army just as long as possible. King Oscar eradicated to a certain extent his elder son's proneness to be a dreamer rather than a doer, but Gustavus has never relinquished his fondness for poetry, and is today almost as noted a linguist as his late father. He is able to read many of the poets in the original tongues.

For another of the arts—music—Gustavus entertains a great love. He is said to possess an excellent voice, which is much heard at home, though seldom in public. The new King has during his term as regent been known to lead public singing on certain occasions.

Those most intimately acquainted with Gustavus and his nature believe that as a ruler the people of Sweden will know him best by his unswerving sense of duty, and his determination to carry out what he himself believes to be right, despite contrary influences. Indicative of this trait, there has frequently been cited an incident which occurred during the time that Gustavus was regent, and therefore practical ruler of Sweden, considering his father's illness. While thus acting several noted criminals were sentenced to death in the ordinary course of criminal procedure. The friends of the

PRINCESS MARGARET.

PRINCE GUSTAV ADOLPH.

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VICTORIA  
SWEDEN'S  
NEW  
QUEEN

been taken to show his strict regard for what he believes to be right, and his probable attitude in such matters, now that he is King.

Despite this stern sense of duty which predominates in his official acts, however, Gustavus is a kindly and genial man in the private walks of life. He is fond of his wife and children, and the family circle is ideal. The marriage of Prince Gustavus and Princess Victoria took place in September, 1881, and was purely a love match. The present crown prince, Gustavus Adolphus, was born November 11, 1882, and his marriage, two years ago, was also a love affair, pure and simple.

The other two sons of the new King and Queen are Prince Wilhelm, whose recent visit to

condemned man made earnest supplication to the crown prince for a commutation of sentence to life imprisonment.

"Laws are made to be respected, to be carried out, and not to be mere empty words," was his reply. The men were executed, and from that day to this the remark has